

S/N 10/550,865

PATENTREMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-9 and 12 remain pending.

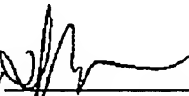
Claims 1-9 and 12 were rejected as anticipated by WO03/080907 (Akiyama). Akiyama has an effective prior art date of October 2, 2003. The present application claims benefit of priority application JP 2003-105709 filed April 9, 2003. A verified translation of the priority application was filed July 23, 2008. See claims 1, 10 and 12 and paragraph [0012] of the priority application. Therefore, Akiyama does not qualify as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 21, 2009

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